

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A saw comprising:
5 a housing;
a motor supported by the housing and operable to drive a saw blade;
a cover selectively connectable to the housing, the cover at least partially covering the saw blade when the cover is connected to the housing; and
a quick-locking member connected to one of the housing and the cover
10 and engageable with the other of the housing and the cover to selectively lock the cover to the housing without the use of tools.
2. The saw of claim 1, wherein the quick-locking member is connected to the housing and is engageable with the cover.
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3. The saw of claim 2, wherein the quick-locking member has a first position, in which the quick-locking member engages the cover to lock the cover to the housing, and a second position, in which the quick-locking member is disengaged from the cover and the cover is not locked to the housing.
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4. The saw of claim 3, wherein the quick-locking member is pivotable between the first position and the second position.
5. The saw of claim 3, further comprising a spring engageable with the
25 quick-locking member to releasably retain the quick-locking member in the first position.
6. The saw of claim 2, wherein the cover defines a recess, the quick-locking member including a locking portion engageable with the recess to lock the cover to the housing.
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7. The saw of claim 1, wherein the cover at least partially covers an upper portion of the saw blade.

8. The saw of claim 1, wherein the quick-locking member is a latch.

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9. The saw of claim 1, wherein the quick-locking member includes an over-center latch.

10. The saw of claim 1, wherein the housing defines a handle portion gripable by a user, the quick-locking member being connected to the housing near the handle portion.

11. The saw of claim 1, further comprising a second locking assembly cooperating with the quick-locking member to selectively lock the cover to the housing.

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12. The saw of claim 11, wherein the housing includes a hook member, the cover engaging the hook member at a first end of the cover and the quick-locking member engaging the cover at a second end of the cover to connect the cover to the housing.

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13. The saw of claim 12, wherein the cover includes a ledge engageable with the hook member.

14. The saw of claim 12, wherein the cover includes a pin engageable with the hook member.

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15. The saw of claim 1, wherein the quick-locking member includes a first member connected to the housing, a second member connected to the first member and pivotable relative to the first member, and a third member connected to the second member and pivotable relative to the second member, the third member being engageable with the cover to selectively lock the cover to the housing.

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16. The saw of claim 15, wherein the third member is engageable by a user to move the third member into and out of engagement with the cover to lock the cover to and unlock the cover from, respectively, the housing.

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17. The saw of claim 1, wherein the cover is a first cover, and wherein the saw further comprises a second cover connected to the housing and disposed between the saw blade and the first cover when the first cover is connected to the housing, the second cover at least partially covering the saw blade when the first cover is both connected to and disconnected from the housing.

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18. The saw of claim 1, wherein the cover defines a receptacle therein operable to hold fragments of a work piece upon which the saw blade is performing work, fragments being moved into the receptacle by the saw blade as the saw blade rotates during operation.

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19. The saw of claim 1, wherein the saw is a circular saw.

20. The saw of claim 1, further comprising a shoe plate connected to the housing and engageable with a surface of a workpiece to support the saw upon the workpiece, the cover substantially covering the portion of the saw blade above the shoe plate.

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21. A method of disassembling a saw, the saw including a housing, a motor supported by the housing and operable to drive a saw blade, a cover connectable to the housing and at least partially covering the saw blade when the cover is connected to the housing, and a locking member connected to one of the housing and the cover and
5 engageable with the other of the housing and the cover to selectively lock the cover to the housing, the method comprising the acts of:

moving the locking member from a first position, in which the locking member engages the one of the housing and the cover to lock the cover to the housing, to a second position, in which the cover is not locked to the housing, without the use of
10 tools; and

removing the cover from the housing to at least partially uncover the saw blade.

22. A saw comprising:
a housing;
a motor supported by the housing and operable to drive a saw blade;
a first cover connected to the housing, the first cover at least partially
5 covering the saw blade; and
a second cover selectively connectable to the housing, the second cover,
when connected to the housing, at least partially covering the first cover and at least
partially covering the saw blade.
- 10 23. The saw of claim 22, wherein the first cover at least partially covers the
saw blade when the second cover is not connected to the housing.
24. The saw of claim 22, wherein the first cover is disposed between the saw
blade and the second cover when the second cover is connected to the housing.
- 15 25. The saw of claim 22, wherein the first cover at least partially covers an
upper portion of the saw blade and the second cover at least partially covers the first
cover and at least partially covers the upper portion of the saw blade when the second
cover is connected to the housing.
- 20 26. The saw of claim 22, wherein the saw blade includes a plurality of teeth,
the first cover covering at least some of the plurality of teeth positioned on an upper
portion of the saw blade.
- 25 27. The saw of claim 22, further comprising a shoe plate connected to the
housing and engageable with a surface of a workpiece to support the saw upon the
workpiece, and wherein the saw blade includes a plurality of teeth, the first cover
substantially covering the teeth on the portion of the saw blade above the shoe plate.
- 30 28. The saw of claim 22, wherein the first cover is semicircular in shape.

29. The saw of claim 22, wherein the second cover defines a cavity for receiving fragments from a work piece upon which the saw blade operates.

30. The saw of claim 29, wherein the housing and the first cover cooperate to
5 define a slot, and wherein the fragments pass through the slot to enter the cavity.

31. The saw of claim 30, wherein one of the housing and the first cover include a tab operable to deflect the fragments into the cavity.

10 32. The saw of claim 31, wherein the tab is disposed at an end of the slot.

33. The saw of claim 22, wherein the second cover completely covers the first cover when the second cover is connected to the housing.

15 34. The saw of claim 22, wherein the saw is a circular saw.

35. The saw of claim 22, further comprising a shoe plate connected to the housing and engageable with a surface of a workpiece to support the saw upon the workpiece, the second cover substantially covering the first cover and the portion of the
20 saw blade above the shoe plate.

36. The saw of claim 22, further comprising a quick-locking member connected to one of the housing and the second cover and engageable with the other of the housing and the second cover to selectively lock the second cover to the housing
25 without the use of tools.

37. The saw of claim 36, wherein the quick-locking member is a latch.

38. The saw of claim 36, wherein the quick-locking member includes an over-
30 center latch.

39. A saw comprising:
a housing;
a motor supported by the housing and operable to drive a saw blade;
a cover selectively connectable to the housing, the cover at least partially
5 covering the saw blade when the cover is connected to the housing; and
a quick-locking member operable to releasably lock the cover to the
housing.

40. The saw of claim 39, wherein the quick-locking member is connected to
10 one of the housing and the cover and is engageable with the other of the housing and the
cover to releasably lock the cover to the housing.

41. The saw of claim 39, wherein the quick locking member is engageable
between the housing and the cover.
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42. The saw of claim 39, wherein the quick-locking member is a latch and the
cover defines a recess, the latch being engageable with the recess to lock the cover to the
housing.

20 43. The saw of claim 39, wherein the quick-locking member is operable to
releasably lock the cover to the housing without the use of tools.